

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6606

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR ON THE REPEAL OF THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION, TERMED IT A "BIT OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL POLITICKING," ADDING: "IT WAS NOT DIRECTED AS US AND IN NO WAY SUGGESTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS EDGING AWAY FROM ITS TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMITMENT." END SUMMARY.

2. COMPLETE FOLLOWS:

3. PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION REPEALER AS EXPECTED. SUGGESTIONS THAT HE VETO IT WERE FOOLISH AND ATTACHED TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS BIT OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL POLITICKING.

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4. THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION DID NOT ADD ANYTHING TO THE

MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES. ITS REPEAL DOES NOT TAKE ANYTHING AWAY.

5. THIS WAS A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CONGRESS IN OTHER TIMES AND UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. IT AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ACTIONS FOR THE DEFENSE OF TAIWAN. THE PRESCADORES AND RELATED AREAS.

7. THIS WAS MERE FROSTING ON THE CAKE. THE PRESIDENT ALREADY HAD THAT AUTHORITY AND STILL HAS IT.

8. THE RESOLUTION WAS NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS THAN A WARNING TO THE COMMUNISTS, WHO WERE MAKING AGGRESSIVE GESTURES IN THE DIRECTION OF TAIWAN.

9. THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SITUATION HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY SINCE THE DAYS OF EISENHOWER, WHEN THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION WAS PASSED, OR EVEN THOSE OF LYNDON JOHNSON, WHO HAD VIETNAM WAR AUTHORITY HANDED HIM IN THE TONKIN GULF RESOLUTION. ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE VOTED AGAINST THE TONKIN GULF MEASURE, WHICH ALSO HAS BEEN REPEALED.

10. IF AN ACT OF AGGRESSION WERE COMMITTED AGAINST TAIWAN OR ANY OTHER U.S. DEFENSE PARTNER AS OF TODAY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACT AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED AND AT THE SAME TIME REPORT TO THE CONGRESS AND SEEK ITS COUNSEL AND SUPPORT.

11. THERE WILL BE, WE THINK, NO MORE VIETNAMS FOR THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT KEEP ITS OBLIGATIONS: MERELY THAT THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WILL HAVE THE SANCTION OF THE CONGRESS AND THEREFORE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

12. REPEAL OF THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION WAS NOT DIRECTED AT US AND IN NO WAY SUGGESTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS EDGING

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AWAY FROM ITS TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMITMENT. AS WASHINGTON WELL KNOWS, ANY STEP IN SUCH A DIRECTION WOULD REPRESENT AN UNMISTAKABLE INVITATION TO THE COMMUNISTS TO SETTLE THE "CHINA PROBLEM" BY FORCE AND VIOLENCE.
CLARKE

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